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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 01679 070855Z

22-11
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 EB-07 L-03 IGA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 ISO-00 /061 W
---------- 041223
R 061123Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7768
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1679

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO; NIAMEY FOR RDO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, DM
SUBJ: PRESIDENT KEREKOU POSTPONES BRIDGE/DAM CORNERSTONE LAYING INDEFINITELY

REF A. STATE 262758 B. COTONOU 1673

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS.

2. BEFORE REQUESTING AN APPOINTMENT FOR ME WITH FORNMIN, DCM HAD TWO TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS THIS MORNING WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. IN FIRST, AIMED AT DRAWING OUT GOVT'S INTENTIONS, LATTER CONFIRMED THAT CEREMONY WOULD BE HELD ON SITE OF NEW BRIDGE. IN SECOND, INITIATED BY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, DCM WAS INFORMED THAT CEREMONY HAD BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. WE HAVE NOW CALLED CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WITH REQUEST THAT HE ARRANGE APPOINTMENT FOR ME WITH FORNMIN.

3. TOP STORY IN DAHOMEAN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER THIS MORNING, BASED ON COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING YESTERDAY IS THAT " WORK WILL BEGIN SOON ON COTONOU BRIDGE/DAM". STORY STATES THAT "COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE BEGINNING OF WORK ON THE DAM,
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FOR WHICH ALL THE NECESSARY DISPOSITIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN

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TAKEN. "THIS PASSAGE IS ALSO BEING CARRIED IN RADIO NEWS
BROADCASTS.

4. COMMENT: ASSUME DECISION TO POSTPONE WAS MADE ON BASIS
DISCUSSION OF MY REACTION TO CHIEF OF PROTOCOL DAY BEFORE
YESTERDAY WHEN HE INFORMED ME OF KEREKOU'S WISHES.

5. DAHOMEAN MEDIA'S STATEMENT RE COMPLETION OF FORMALITIES
FOR THE DAM IS OF COURSE INCORRECT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ADB
HAS NOT YET NOTIFIED REDSO THAT GTE CONTRACT HAS BEEN APPROVED
AND REDSO HAS NOT ISSUED IMPLEMENTATION LETTER (REF B,
PARA 4.

6. WE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY INTENSIVE PUBLICITY GIVEN
THIS MORNING RE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK. THIS PUBLICITY
WILL SERVE TO BUILD UP PRESSURES, INCLUDNG PRESSURES
WITHIN THE REGIME ITSELF, THAT MAY WELL REMAIN UNSATISFIED.
IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT KEREKOU WILL SELECT ANOTHER DATE
IN NEAR FUTURE FOR INAUGURATION AND EITHER HAVE A
CEREMONY WITHOUT USG PRESENCE OR TRY TO DRAGOON US ONCE
AGAIN INTO A CEREMONY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 06 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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From: COTONOU
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TAGS: EAID, DM, SG, (KEREKOU, MATHIEU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006